

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 14, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 6 and 8 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 6, and 8 to 11 are pending in this application, with claims 6 and 9 being the independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended, and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the file does not contain a Patent Drawing Review by the Patent Office Draftsperson. It is requested that this Review be undertaken and a Review by the Draftsperson be issued in response to this Amendment.

Although an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on November 30, 1999, the Examiner did not indicate in the pending Office Action or in the previous Office Action that the references cited in that 1999 IDS were considered by the Examiner. In case the 1999 IDS was misplaced, enclosed herewith in another IDS listing the references in that IDS that the Examiner has not already considered, along with an English language equivalent of the Swedish patent reference cited in the 1999 IDS. An acknowledgement of consideration of the cited references is requested.

The Specification has been amended to add a claim for priority.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 7.

In the Office Action mailed August 14, 2002, claims 6 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,574,566 (“Eaves”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,243,186 (“Peter”).

Eaves discloses an apparatus, wherein a wrapper is fed into a nip of feeding rolls from a roll. Peter discloses a feeding apparatus for a magnetic tape in which a reel feeding the tape is rotated opposite to the feeding direction in order to get the end of the tape in a desired position, then the tape is sucked forward by vacuum. In the Office Action (page 3), the Examiner states that Peter discloses that “the leading edge is blown toward the drawing means by an air flow (76) which is being read as an air nozzle, since air flow must inherently originate at a nozzle of some type.” However, the Examiner’s entire statement is not accurate. The abstract clearly states that air is “sucked … through the flow path” and thus “pulls and guides” the free end portion of the magnetic tape. (See also, col. 2, lines 54-61). Air is “sucked” through the perforated spool 48 (shown as “Vac” in Fig. 13). (col. 5, lines 36-38). In fact, Peter emphasizes that “Gravity and high pressure directional air jets are not utilized.” (col. 5, lines 18-19). The tape travels freely in

the air flow produced in the feed channel. This system is well suited for feeding relatively narrow tapes but impossible to use for feeding wide flat wrapper used for packing paper rolls.

In accordance with the present invention as recited in independent claims 6 and 9, a fast air flow is formed between two flat objects whereby a supporting pressurized air film is created between the surfaces, i.e., between the feeding table and the wrapper. The thin air film supports the wrapper and movement of the wrapper flat on the feeding table, thereby preventing wrinkling or curling. It is clear, that if a wide wrapper would be fed into a tube according to Peter, it would instantly curl into a tube-like form preventing feeding of the wrapper into a nip of feeding rolls without wrinkling. Further, Peter discloses only a free-flow in a tube, not a forced-flow between two surfaces.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 6 and 9 are patentable. Dependent claim 8 is patentable for the same reasons that independent claim 6 is patentable; dependent claims 10 and 11 are patentable for the same reasons that independent claim 9 is patentable. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 14, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

Amend the following claims as follows:

6. A method for threading a wrapper end from a wrapper roll to a nip between wrapper proportioning drawing rolls in a wrapping station for wrapping paper rolls, board rolls and pulp rolls, comprising:

rotating a wrapper roll in a use position against a wrapper feeding direction such that a wrapper end falls on a surface of a wrapper feeding table;

detecting when the wrapper end has fallen on the surface of the wrapper feeding table;

stopping rotation of the wrapper roll when falling of the wrapper end on the surface of the wrapper feeding table has been detected; **[and]**

rotating the wrapper roll in the wrapper feeding direction until the wrapper end passes an indicator positioned after the wrapper proportioning drawing rolls; **and**

blowing air along the surface of the wrapper feeding table so as to guide the wrapper end along the surface of the wrapper feeding table.

Cancel claim 7, without prejudice.

8. The method of claim [7] **6**, wherein air is blown along the surface of the wrapper feeding table before falling of the wrapper end on the surface of the wrapper feeding table has been detected.